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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR/Satellites

DATE DISTR 30 September 1949

SUBJECT Command of Cominform Guerrilla Forces

NO. OF PAGES 3

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PLACE  
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INF

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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Comment: The following conflicting reports are forwarded to  
you for whatever interest they may hold in connection with any similar  
information which you may have received. These reports appear to stem in part from the same ultimate origin  
which reported that Marshal Konev is in command of all Com-  
munist para-military forces in non-satellite Europe, with headquarters  
in Odessa; that he has recently been in Bulgaria and Albania; and that  
he is coordinating plans for the satellite armies in the event of con-  
flict with Yugoslavia.

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1. the Yugoslav Government is in possession of information to the effect that Marshal Konev is the over-  
all chief of Cominform para-military units and is currently organizing  
Bulgaria and other Soviet-satellite countries against Yugoslavia.

2.

- a. Upon abolition of the Ukrainian front, the duties of this front were  
assigned to the Odessa District. The commanders of Soviet forces  
in Rumania and Hungary are responsible to Odessa.
- b. Yugoslavia is within the operational zone of the Odessa District.  
Plans concerning Yugoslavia are made in Odessa.
- c. The commander of the Military District of Odessa is [Marshal Konev].
- d. The Soviet Second Armored Division is now making provocative move-  
ments along the Yugoslav border in Banat.

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present, Soviet activities in relation to Yugoslavia have not gone beyond the propaganda and pressure stage.

[redacted] (General) Sidor Kovpak, an ex-Soviet guerrilla leader, has been given overall command of Cominform troops throughout the world. This report states further that:

a. Gen. Kovpak currently maintains headquarters "somewhere in Albania" but often travels secretly through the areas under his command.

b. The scope of Kovpak's command ranges from [redacted] rebels in open warfare to secret semi-military units in Western Europe. All active Cominform fifth-column work on a para-military basis is supervised by him. His instruction of secret semi-military Cominform units in Western Europe is based largely upon training activities of nucleus groups of [redacted] Communist refugees [redacted]

c. Kovpak's current major task is the organization of preparations for civil war in Yugoslavia directed against the Tito regime.

[redacted] Kovpak was last mentioned, in Communist Tadzhikistan of 8 July 1949, as a member of the delegation to Dimitrov's funeral in Bulgaria. The confusion over whether it is Konev or Kovpak who is in command of Cominform forces is possibly attributable to the

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similarity of names. Of the two, Kovpak would appear to be the more likely one. Inasmuch as Konev is Commander-in-Chief of Soviet Ground Forces, it is improbable that he is also commander of the Odessa MD. On the other hand, Kovpak, who has been in the Ukraine for some time and has been Deputy Chairman of the Praesidium of the Ukrainian SSR since early 1947, might have been given this assignment. This would mean that Marshal Zhukov, last commander of the Odessa MD, had been removed; Zhukov was last identified as still being in Odessa as of 16 May 1949 but was reported at the beginning of June 1949 to have been given command of the Ural MD.)

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